

REMARKS

Claims 1-18 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, Figure 12 is amended and claims 14-18 are added. No new matter is added. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

Figure 12 is objected to for not including a "Prior Art" legend. A replacement sheet with Figure 12, amended to include a "Prior Art" legend is attached hereto. It is respectfully requested that the objection be withdrawn.

Claims 1-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 6,528,874 to Ijima et al (Ijima) and claims 12 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Ijima. The rejection is respectfully traversed for at least the following reasons.

Applicants respectfully submit that Ijima is not prior art to this application because this application claims priority from Japanese Application No. 2000-226445 (JP'445), which was filed in the Japanese Patent Office on July 27, 2000. Applicants submit that JP'445 supports the subject matter recited in the pending claims. To perfect the July 27, 2000 priority date of this application, an accurate translation of JP'445 is attached hereto.

The U.S. filing date of Ijima is October 11, 2000. For at least these reasons, Applicants submit that Ijima is not prior art against this application. It is respectfully requested that the rejections be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of all pending claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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JAO:MMI/hs

Attachments:

Replacement Drawing Sheet (Fig. 12)
Petition for Extension of Time
Accurate Translation of Japanese Application No. 2000-226445

Date: August 22, 2005

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Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached replacement drawing sheet makes changes to Fig. 12 and replaces the original sheet with Fig. 12.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet